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MR. DWIGHT'S DISCOURSE
ON THE DEATH OF
PRESIDENT HARRISON.

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"A Great Man Fallen."

A

DISCOURSE,

ON THE DEATH OF

PRESIDENT HARRISON:

DELIVERED IN THE

THIRD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF PORTLAND;

**ON SABBATH MORNING, APRIL 18,
AND ON THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 22, 1841--THE DAY OF THE
ANNUAL FAST.**

BY WILLIAM T. DWIGHT.

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II. SAMUEL 3 : 38.

—“KNOW YE NOT, THAT THERE IS A PRINCE AND A GREAT MAN FALLEN
THIS DAY IN ISRAEL ?”

THE hand of the Almighty has smitten the nation in the person of its Chief Magistrate, and the shock has been felt from the shores of the Atlantic to the banks of the Mississippi. During the fifty two years which have passed away since the organization of our national government, thirteen terms of the Presidency have been occupied by a succession of most distinguished individuals, each of whom outlived his allotted period of public service ; and men accordingly were unconsciously adopting the idea, that the President of the United States was not to die. Hope and fear, the spirit of party and the spirit of patriotism, the man of the world and the Christian, were all largely crediting this delusion, when with scarcely a note of warning the blow was struck, and the Head of the nation was lifeless in the dust. So sudden and crushing has fallen the thunderbolt, that men have been generally stunned and scarcely able to draw their breath ; and now that they are beginning to recover their self-possession, they can look around them only in astonishment and awe. Party strifes have for the moment slept, the ordinary currents of thought and feeling have, as it were, ceased to flow, and multitudes who had all but forgotten that there is a God, have been compelled to look upward and acknowledge His resistless hand.

We profess, my friends, universally to believe in the supremacy of the God of providence and of the God of the Bible ; and unless we do violence to every conviction of enlightened reason no less than of revelation, we shall recognize His presence and agency in all events, in the least as

as well as in the greatest—in the falling of a leaf, and in the foundation of an empire. We never act a more rational or a loftier part than when we study in the clear light of His word the lessons of wisdom, goodness and sovereignty, which His providence is daily imparting: every object here, be it but a leaf or an insect, bears His stamp, unfolds His perfections, invites us and celestial spirits alike to commune with our glorious Author. When then we forsake the vegetable and insect kingdoms and ascend into the world of man, when we behold a great people of many millions all hushed and awed by the unexpected death of their Chief Magistrate, we must be irrational indeed should we refuse to listen to the teachings of our Creator, we should be practical atheists if we perceive not that His hand has been busy here. This mysterious judgment speaks not to here and there a solitary individual, but to every inhabitant of the land—to the north and to the south, to the east and to the west; and it is the evident duty of every citizen rightly to understand the God of our fathers and the Sovereign of nations, when His voice is thus heard. Let us, particularly, endeavour to be so profited.

It is my design to notice several of the CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF THIS DISPENSATION FROM THE MOST HIGH; and then to consider the INSTRUCTIONS which it affords.

It is then *the death of our Chief Magistrate*; we mourn the loss of the Head of a great nation. This is in one view the most strongly marked characteristic, causing its peculiar gloom to every eye so that no man can remain unmoved. The King of terrors may aim his darts, in his ordinary work of destruction, at one and another humble head, and the vast multitude who are all destined to be his victims may scarcely notice the fatal stroke: hundreds and thousands of individuals who are unknown beyond their native village or their narrow circle of friends and neighbors, may successively die, and but a few hearts are startled, but few eyes

weep. But when he chooses a "shining mark," all eyes are fixed, many a cheek turns pale, many a heart grows cold. A crowded village may be overspread with sadness by the death of its principal inhabitant ; a large city may hush all its bustle and assume the stillness of the Sabbath, because an eminent and venerated citizen is borne to the tabernacles of the dead ; a State may be agitated and in sorrow throughout its length and breadth, when its governor, or chief justice, or some other pillar of the community, lies shivered in the dust. Uproot one of the myriad trees that crowd the level forest, and no perceptible gap is made ; but when the giant oak which alone covers the summit and the sides of the hill, falls before the blast, all is desolation. And thus has God now smitten us. The President of these twenty six United States, the Ruler of seventeen millions of people, has been summoned to the grave. He, who should command our armies in war, and guide our councils in peace—he, to whom the monarchs of Europe and the other nations of the earth addressed themselves in all their intercourse with us as a people—he, who was thus our august Chief, in whom the nation's character, dignity and power were all constitutionally embodied—has been hurled by an unseen hand from his solitary height, and we see him no more. The Most High has thus removed him in whom, as citizens of our common country, we had each a deep personal interest, he was *our* Chief Magistrate, the high trusts which he sustained were all to be faithfully discharged by him for our personal benefit, the laws which he was to execute are those which declare our rights and duties, and the institutions which he was to guard are those which we have received as an inestimable heritage from our fathers.—He was also the Ruler of the people's choice. We have not lost in him an ambitious chieftain whom the swords of a lawless soldiery had rendered our master, as Napoleon was rendered First Consul of France, and as many a Roman and Isra-

elitish general became respectively the monarch at Rome and at Samaria ; he came not in under an hereditary title, as at one time a giddy girl, and at another a heartless bigot or a superannuated profligate, may become, through the accident of birth, a European sovereign. He had been invited by the voice of the nation, he had been freely elected the ruler of the land by his fellow citizens, and he was thus invested with a rightfulness of authority, with a splendor of dignity, which not a king nor emperor on earth now possesses. And he is dead ! He has forever left the loftiest of earthly stations, he will never discharge the high trusts which he has received, the man whom we selected to preside over us has departed, for his and our Creator has summoned him away.

It is the death of one, *who had been long distinguished for his Public Services*. Had the late President's claims to the respect of the nation rested solely or principally upon his possession of his august office, had the people in a fit of madness suddenly made him their head, only to wake up instantly from their delusion and bitterly to repent of it thereafter, much that is now solemn and appalling in this Dispensation would have been unnoticed. He might then have died, as so many hereditary sovereigns of almost every European country have died, illustrious by accident, honored on account of the station for which he was utterly unfitted, and forgotten for every thing besides. But the good providence of God has blessed us with institutions, the operation of which almost necessarily precludes the selection of any but an eminent citizen for the chief magistracy. He whose friends and admirers would thus exalt him, is immediately rendered conspicuous to all eyes in the land, his public and personal character is severely scrutinized in every quarter, not an act or speech which indicates the true measure of his qualifications is overlooked or lightly canvassed : and if as the result, he is evinced to be weak, vacillating, incapable of swaying the minds of others—if he has

been obscure, or not widely known and felt in his own region, and is now dignified as the mere creature of a faction or a party, it is almost impossible that such an individual should be elected. Whatever may be the conflict of party politics, such is the working of our free institutions, that the nation almost instinctively demands in him who is to preside over us a long previous career of distinction and the possession of great personal influence ; and the late President had been thus conspicuous, he, like many of his predecessors, had been distinguished by a long life of public services. The limits of a single discourse forbid me to enter upon a minute detail of the incidents of his public career, but it is known universally that in very early life he was invested with important trusts, that he filled high offices civil and military, with honor to himself and with usefulness to his country. At the age of eighteen he received a commission in the national army, and he subsequently served in the campaigns against the Indian tribes in the North Western Territory. At the age of twenty five he was appointed Lieutenant Governor, and at the age of twenty seven Governor, of that extended Territory, which then included the whole region now occupied by the states of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois—a station, which he retained for many successive years. While holding this office, he commanded the army which defeated our Indian enemies on the banks of the Wabash ; and in the ensuing year, at the commencement of the last war with Great Britain, he entered, as a general in the national army, upon a long and distinguished course of service against our savage and civilized foes. Soon after the close of the war he was elected to the national legislature in its lower branch, and at a subsequent period to the national senate ; at a still later period he represented the country, as its envoy, at a foreign court ; and in the performance of these and other public duties, with occasional intervals of retirement, more than forty years of his life had

passed away. He had thus lived as a public servant, as an honored and trusted officer, an equal period to that of the reign of David or of Solomon, antecedently to his election to the Presidency : the ardor of early manhood, the vigour of middle age, and the chastened experience of ripening years, had been all occupied, in the providence of God, in unconscious preparation for his assumption of the august office which he was destined, and so briefly, to fill. Other nations, as has been already remarked, may be constrained by the iron weight of institutions which they cannot shake off, to submit to the dominion of a child ; a headstrong youth, or an imperious female may sway the sceptre, while a pliant minister or worthless favorites become the tools of the monarch's passion or caprice ; but we bless the God of our fathers, that we wear no such fetters. Our departed chief magistrate entered upon his high functions, as a full grown, long tried, approved, honored, and venerable man, he needed nothing more in years or experience, there was nothing in the dignity or responsibility of his office for which his preceding career had not been fitted to prepare him. Had he never been elevated to the Presidency, his name and his achievements would have been enrolled high in his country's annals, he would have been ever deemed one of the nation's most eminent men while he lived, he would have been long honored and remembered after his death.—And when such a man falls, when a career so conspicuous, useful and approved, is suddenly terminated by the fiat of the Most High, it is fit that men's hearts should be agitated and then softened by the spectacle. It is no obscure grave around which the Lord has assembled us, it is filled with one of our country's worthies ; the warrior—the governor—the senator—the sage, as well as the president, were all united in him who now slumbers there.

It is also the death of one, *whose Personal Character had secured for him, throughout the land, peculiar attach-*

ment and respect. Personal character is distinct from public services, the useful citizen is not always the pure minded man, nay, a nation's benefactor may be dishonored by his private vices or excesses. The sentence of the final day will thus utterly condemn many who are long applauded on earth, and this essential distinction is also often clearly recognized and never should be overlooked in this world. Men who fear God, men who practise virtue themselves and venerate it in others, can never justify or excuse immorality in other men—however distinguished by intellect or station, however illustrious in council or in war: it is a foul, hideous blot, which darkens the brightest honors, and its palpable defilement of the characters of some of our most public men has given sadness and shame to many a patriot's heart. But I know not that this melancholy discordance has ever been seriously affirmed of our late Chief Magistrate. I am not aware that friend or foe among those who were familiarly acquainted with him has asserted him to have been immoral or wanting in integrity, to have slighted the Bible or its Author, to have neglected one domestic or social duty. It was a noticeable fact that, throughout the long and bitter political contest which terminated in his election to the Presidency, the opposition to his election was professedly almost absolutely founded upon a disapprobation of his political principles and measures: his personal character was unassailed, the most violent partizan was, from choice or necessity, silent there. And is there an American heart that now rejoices not in this; is there one man so envenomed with party spirit as to wish that the good name of the late President had been then, or could be now, blackened by plausible calumny; is any one so ignorant as not to know, that the private character of the ruler is ever the surest guarantee for the uprightness of his public administration? I have said that the late President's personal character had secured for him throughout the land

peculiar attachment and respect, and while my means of knowledge of what his character really was are none other than those of every citizen, I think that I can specify some of its principal and most attractive features. These were, simplicity ; frankness ; kindness of feeling, not only towards his friends, but towards his countrymen and fellowmen ; uprightness of purpose ; and devoted patriotism. That God had given him a colossal intellect is not affirmed, nor are men who are thus endowed usually the greatest benefactors of their species ; but that his powers of mind were most respectable, that they were fully adequate to the demands of his high office, will not be denied. The mass of mankind when left to their own unperverted feelings, ask not for dazzling qualities in a ruler ; they decide as history and as common sense decide, that the plain, substantial attributes of kindness, of sincerity, of integrity, of good sense, of love of country, outweigh all the conqueror's laurels and the statesman's sagacity—where these are wanting. The same qualities which ensure usefulness and conciliate good will in the ordinary circuits of life, and which are thus inestimable to the vast mass of every community, are the very qualities which, when adequately enlarged and disciplined, fit their possessor for the most exalted stations—for the conduct of armies or the councils of a nation, for the Presidency, or for a throne. And these sterling attributes, as his countrymen believed, and as those especially believed who stand most aloof from party strifes, were the groundwork of the late President's character ; it was this conviction unquestionably which secured his election, and which inclined such numbers throughout the country to view him as a father of the people, to honour him as the patriarch of the land.

That personal piety crowned the union of these other qualities, I cannot positively affirm ; yet there is nothing which forbids, and much that favours, the supposition. His devout recognition of the God of the Bible and of the

religion of the Lord Jesus Christ in his Inaugural Address, which gave delight to myriads of pious hearts—and his declared intention of speedily making a profession of religion, the execution of which was frustrated by his mortal illness—these, with other incidents which might be specified, warrant the persuasion that he was not a stranger to the faith of the humble believer. The Lord only seeth the heart, but multitudes rejoice that there is such a ground for hope.

It is then the death of one thus personally respected and beloved over the land, that we deplore. It is not the death of a veteran demagogue, or of a worn out, royal voluptuary, or of an iron conqueror, gasping his last as a prisoner in a lonely island of the deep; but of our kind hearted, sage, and patriotic President, who honoured the name of God, and trusted, as we would hope, in the cross of Christ.

It is also the death of one, *whose commencing administration of our public interests had awakened unusual confidence*. I speak not the language of mere party politics in this sacred place and on this day of God, and never have these walls echoed to such language from my lips, I simply affirm what is an undoubted fact. Elevated to our highest office by a large majority of the votes of the nation, the eyes of all were fixed upon him, his personal character had conciliated the goodwill of many who had honestly opposed his election, and his avowed friends throughout the country were growing more and more devoted. His age, his simplicity of manners, and the firm conviction of his uprightness and love for the public good, were only riveting these impressions, so that as the Head of the nation he had already acquired, in the providence of God, a prodigious personal influence over his fellow citizens. None, probably, doubted his disinterestedness or his zeal for his country, and immense numbers in every quarter firmly believed that his administration would steadily and rapidly promote its welfare. A strength of expectation was thus indulged, an implicitness

of reliance and a heartiness of support were thus given, at his entrance upon the Presidency, such as have probably never been known but in one preceding instance: not that others of his predecessors had not deserved them, but that they did not actually receive them. What was supposed to be wrong, he was to rectify; what was right, he would maintain and strengthen; he would be only the father of the people, the President—not of a party, but of the whole country.

Such are some of the Features of this most solemn Dispensation from the Most High, which has removed from us our Chief Magistrate by death. They refer us to his exalted office; to his long previous life of public service; to his personal character; to his almost unprecedented hold upon the national confidence and love. Yes, he *was* all this; but a few days since it could be said, he *is* all this; and unnumbered hearts then fondly exclaimed—he *will long be* all this. And where is he now? Scarcely six short weeks have passed since, in the presence of exulting thousands, he called the Ruler of nations to witness, that he would be faithful to the high trust which he was then assuming; and now—his body has been already mouldering for a fortnight in the grave!

Let us now proceed to notice some of the INSTRUCTIONS, which this Dispensation affords.

How solemnly then are we reminded of *the Sovereignty of God!* His government of the natural world is so uniform, that men popularly and often profanely speak of the laws of nature,” as if there were no intelligent Ruler of the universe; and His course of providence towards man is often for a long period so little varied, that many willingly recognize no agency in shaping their destiny which transcends their own or that of their fellows. Even the habitually devout mind is so clogged by its material fetters, that at times it can scarcely rise above this cloudy, grosser

sphere, the things which are not seen by the bodily eye are all but invisible to the eye of faith, and He, who “doeth according to His will in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth,” seems for the moment infinitely distant, and all but unconcerned for man and his puny interests. Individuals, communities, nations, may thus in varying degrees, almost exclude the Universal Ruler from the control of His creatures ; they may deify human power and sagacity, they may deem fate or nature, chance or accident, sovereign over themselves, while they but nominally recognize even the existence of Jehovah. Yet what is this, just so far as it exists, but virtual atheism—a contradiction not only of the Bible and of enlightened reason, but of the faith of the Mahometan, the western savage and the Polynesian islander ; and how evident is it that God’s honour and the interests of this Christian country require the frequent, and peculiar, interventions of His providence that men may be rescued from these guilty delusions ! He is the Sovereign, alone, absolute, taking no counsel with His creatures, undiscoverable in His designs, almighty in their execution, suffering not a sparrow nor a hair of the head to fall but when He wills it. He orders alike the circuit of an insect’s flight and the orbit of a planet, at His word the infant yesterday began to breathe and tomorrow the patriarch will die, His sceptre is equally resistless in heaven and in hell. Within that circle of intolerable glory which creatures never enter, His wisdom and goodness often cross our profoundest plans and frustrate our fondest hopes. Those plans may respect ourselves, our friends, our dearest earthly interests ; those hopes may comprehend our country, or may centre in its official head : but He, whose eye surveys all coming time and an eternity yet to be exactly as He does the present moment, may see reasons which constrain Him to write vanity, confusion, desolation upon them all. While He is perfect excellence, His goodness being as un-

bounded as his holiness is awful, His providence may for the time utterly thwart and, to the eye of unbelief, seemingly mock our calculations.

And what a frustration of hopes, what a termination of plans, has the Lord in his Sovereignty accomplished here ! Who expected, who imagined, one month since, that our late President would not be now living ? Who among the unnumbered multitudes of his friends and supporters, anticipated not added years of honor to himself and of benefit to the land, from his administration ? The constitutional voice of a great nation had called him to be its head, he had but just sworn before heaven and earth to be faithful, ten thousand prayers were ascending over our vast country in his behalf, during more than half a century a President of the United States had never died,—and lo, he is no more ! Medical science cannot baffle his disease, intercession cannot save him, the tidings of his illness have not yet reached even a moiety of the people,—and his spirit has departed. And it is not fatigue or excitement, it is not exposure, and cold and fever, that have caused this : these are almost unmeaning names, expressing only so many different channels of agency, through which a Sovereign God has been pleased to take him away. Jehovah has done all, asking not our consent, taking not counsel with us, assigning not one reason for His decision. How submissively then, should we, individually and as an entire nation, bow ourselves before Him, as the Ruler of man, as the Arbiter of life and death ! Righteous art thou, O Lord, and upright are thy judgments: we would be dumb and open not our mouths, because Thou hast done it !

We are no less distinctly taught, that *our national interests are lodged, not with those who administer the government, but with God*. Civil government is, as such, His ordinance ; and that form of it which our free institutions exhibit, is, we doubt not, the result of His approving provi-

dence, because its spirit is consonant with the genius of Christianity. Respect and obedience are required even for wicked rulers, where their decrees or other measures contravene not the divine mandates ; and a virtuous ruler, a wise and patriotic prince or other chief magistrate, is to be universally honored as the vicegerent of God. Yet the best rulers are but men, they are instruments of the Almighty's hand, and nothing more. His breath makes them, His breath can unmake them. "For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge : He putteth down one, and setteth up another." By Him "kings reign, and princes decree justice." Washington would have never been the father of his country, had not the Divine Wisdom trained and upheld him ; Daniel would have proved a time serving courtier and an apostate from the faith of his fathers, at Babylon, had it not been for that Wisdom ; Moses would have led his slavish countrymen back to Egypt in cowardly submission to their first murmurs, had it not been for that Wisdom. How absurd then as well as impious is that spirit of man worship, that servile veneration for public men who are the heads of a party or the favorites of the people, which is so characteristic of our republican country ! Men of ordinary no less than of the largest capacity, of spotted as truly as of pure reputations, are thus made idols by their fellow citizens, the honor and prosperity of the nation are professedly identified with their acquisition and retention of high office, worms of the dust are thus elevated to the throne of the Ruler of nations. Nor is this sin solely chargeable on mere political partizans, on minor demagogues and their retainers ; many a true hearted patriot, many a sincere Christian, has in a greater or less degree unconsciously committed it. The deeper the interest which we permit ourselves to feel in any particular course of national policy, the more earnestly we desire at any moment the continuance or the change of public men

and measures, the stronger is the temptation to invest such men with a portion of God's prerogative—to ascribe to those who now administer or whom we would have administer the government, a wisdom, an efficiency, a success, which belong not to mortals.

And can we doubt that God is now rebuking us as a people, for this specific sin? Just as was our late President's title to national respect and confidence, faithful as, we trust, he would have proved in the discharge of his high duties, he was still a man; he was therefore frail, erring, dependent on God's wisdom and grace for all his own fitness and willingness to benefit his country. And what myriads, is there not cause for fear, have often virtually overlooked all this—myriads who, in their zeal for the candidate or the President of their choice, have half deified the man, and half dethroned their God—myriads, who augured a four years' continuance of prosperity to every quarter of the nation more because their favorite was chief magistrate, than because the Lord reigneth! Amid the other lessons of this mournful Dispensation this then surely should not be forgotten. The Most High will not confer His peculiar honour on any creature, He will not suffer a people whom He purposes to protect and bless, ostensibly to slight Him, from excessive attachment and veneration for a fellow mortal. We should duly honour every faithful public servant, we should gratefully revere an upright and wise chief magistrate, but our steadfast hope and trust for all that concerns ourselves or our country should never rest for a moment in any other than God. While we pretend not to scan His purposes, is He not now thus audibly addressing us: "Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth." Let us then, while this dark cloud now broods over us, look far above it, and far beyond creatures, for the present peace and the future safeguard of our land. From

the throne of God must descend the influences which are to sanctify to us the bereavement of our late President, and which are to bless the land in the administration of his successor.

We should listen also, *to the solemn rebuke which is here given to our party strifes*. I would be the last to affirm, as some would affirm, that these strifes are inherently connected with the enjoyment of our free institutions, that they are the tax which must be paid by every republican country, yet certain is it that they have been our reproach and our bane almost from the declaration of our independence. Most of our national and many of our state elections are characterized, in the preliminary and attendant efforts of the opposing parties, with such a bitterness of hostility, such a wantonness of slander against rival candidates for office, such a sacrifice of public and patriotic feeling, that a true lover of his country and of peace dreads the recurrence of these elections almost as he does the outbreaking of the pestilence. All this is distinctly legible throughout the history of the late Presidential election. Pure minded men on either side could listen only with disgust, and timid men with affright, to these incessant party outcries: they stood as it were aloof, while the contest was raging, almost like a war of extermination, between the respective partizans. For what sympathy could the principled and steadfast supporters of all that is precious among us—could men who respect themselves, and cherish good will towards those who differ from them—feel in such scenes and with such actors! And now, this furious contest is terminated in the present success of one party and in the present disappointment of the other party, the venerable man whom the former sustained has become the nation's head, all is triumph and gratulation for a few brief days;—and then, he sinks at once into the arms of death! And has this warfare all over the land between townsmen and

neighbors and friends thus terminated, is the shout of triumph thus hushed, do party slander and malice now fear to assail that honored grave? What then does conscience instinctively affirm in this solemn pause, what should every American bosom respond, what does God in His righteous providence here proclaim!—That these party strifes are our shame and our sin, that they are unnatural to us as men, and more unnatural to us as freemen, and most unnatural to us as fellow citizens of a Christian land.

Is this indeed our much loved native soil? Are its social and civil, its literary and religious, institutions of matchless worth? Should we as readily become hewers of wood and drawers of water as consent to be Austrian subjects, or to bow once more to the supremacy of Great Britain? Is this true of us as individuals, is it true of the party, whatever it may be, with which we are associated? And is it not not also true of almost every other native American, is it not true of the party with whose success he has identified his interests and hopes? Let but a foreign potentate utter a threat against our shores, and there is but one pulse, one voice, one arm, from the ocean to the 'Father of waters,' from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf: and are fellow countrymen who are thus wedded to their native land, to become bitter enemies to one another because they differ as to political men and measures! If the treasures of either Indies were the reward of the successful party or of its leaders in such contests, they would be dearly purchased. Good neighborhood so widely disturbed, the laws of truth and decency so often violated, every malignant passion fanned into a glow—and all for what? Let the reckless partizan on either side condemn himself, as he now answers; and while we look down into the dark vault where our departed Chief now reposes, let us all mourn over these foul blots upon our country's name, O let us remember that the benevolence of the gospel is our only law in private, or in public—as men, or as citizens! Honest dif-

ferences of opinion as to public men and measures we must cherish, and we may temperately maintain ; but the sentence of the final day and the voice of this dark providence will condemn us, if we stop not there.

We are also loudly reminded *to prepare for our personal departure*. Every freshly opened grave is such an admonition, and such is each mossy tombstone with its illegible record, such is every mouldering relic of the departed, but what power should accompany this universal warning ! Has the chief magistrate of our great country been summoned into the world of spirits and before the tribunal of his Judge, could not the exalted duties that awaited his discharge retard his dissolution for a single hour : can then our humble stations, our little earthly interests, furnish an argument to delay the destroyer ? Could not the hopes nor fears of a people, nor the intercessions of a host of the righteous, avail to add a month or a day to his probation : what then will the tears or the petitions of our household circle effect for us, when the dread hour approaches ? Did he need cleansing in a Saviour's blood, and the free forgiveness of God, as the condition of his salvation : are we also thus cleansed, have we been thus forgiven ? O what are domestic love and peace, what are fulness of days and a spotless name, what the dominion of earth or the treasures of creation, if the spirit is at last to enter eternity—unpardoned and unholy ! “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”

